Tracing Paper

IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE THEM
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE THEM JUST DON'T GET IT
MR. KIJIMA, AS A PSYCHIC WHOSE STAR'S RISING YOU'RE SO POPULAR THAT YOU ARE FULLY BOOKED HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?
I'M VERY THANKFUL
REC
DO YOU EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY THINGS DUE TO YOUR PSYCHIC POWER?
HAHA... YES
OH? WHAT IS IT LIKE?
LIKE CAN YOU SEE DEITIES OR SPIRITS?
I CAN SEE THEM
BUT HMM, IT'S MORE LIKE
SOMETIMES I'LL SUDDENLY HAVE IMAGES OF AN INDIVIDUAL POPPING INTO MY MIND
KINDA LIKE A PREMONITION?
IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE THEM, TOO

Is this a dream?
Ah... Tsuchiya...
I DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
IT'S BEEN GETTING WORSE LATELY
ARE YOU ABLE TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?
...Isn't this the home economics room?
Our old spot
STOP SAYING THAT
I WANT TO END IT ALL
And that was my usual reply
He always said that
All the time...
He was in agony
The last time we saw each other—

IN MY CASE, WITHIN THE NEXT THREE DAYS
I KNOW RIGHT?
A PREMONITION! THERE'S THAT TOO, YEAH?
I'LL DEFINITELY MEET THAT PERSON.

Has it been ten years already?
I HEARD THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY POWER BEFORE HIGH-SCHOOL
WAS THERE A TRIGGER?
A HUNDRED PERCENT CHANCE OF MEETING! THAT'S INCREDIBLE
SPLASH
That flash-back was unexpected
Not like I've actually forgotten about it
IT WAS JUST
SUDDEN?
OH! NO
SUDDEN.

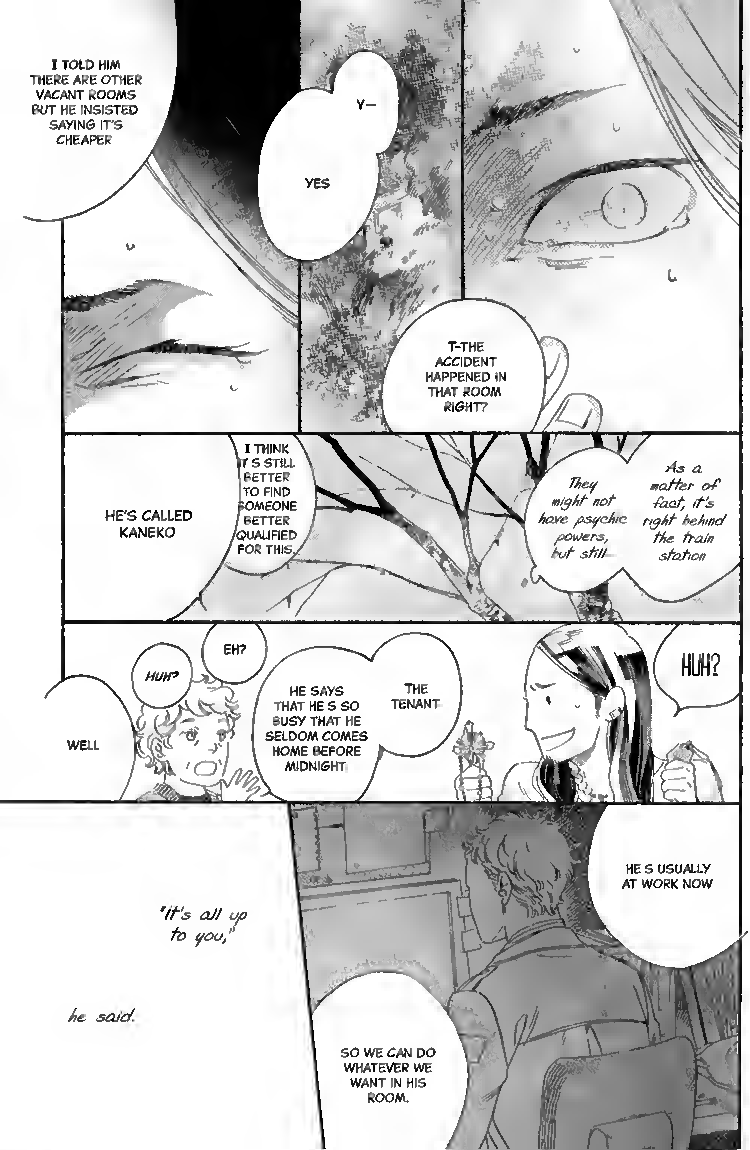
SHUT
I can't admit it
That I was 'infected'
by someone
SENSEI! THERE'S A PHONE CALL FROM YOUR MOTHER
Hello! Nao-kun?
Sorry for calling you at work.

Listen
there's an acquaintance of mine who-
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DON T USUALLY CALL ME HERE
HMM
YEAH
OKAY
HUH?

WE RE HERE, SENSEI
IT S GOTTEN SO BAD HERE THAT WE RE THINKING OF DEMOLISHING THE BUILDING AND SELLING THE LAND

TWO YEARS AGO THERE WAS A SMALL ACCIDENT HERE
BUT BECAUSE THE PLACE'S CHEAP PEOPLE HAVE BEEN COMING IN, ONLY TO MOVE OUT IMMEDIATELY
sigh
SAY
I BELIEVE YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD FROM MY MOM THAT I'M JUST A PSYCHIC
SO THIS SORT OF TASK IS NOT REALLY—
I UNDERSTAND! I UNDERSTAND!
I'M SORRY BUT I COULDN'T THINK OF ANY-ONE ELSE WHO COULD HELP

SERIOUSLY
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THE AIR CURRENT'S REALLY STRONG
THIS IS BAD
AND THE FOG'S REALLY THICK
ARE THERE ANY TENANTS NOW?
wusy wusy
HUH?
HUH?!
ONLY ONE
ROOM 201, RIGHT AT THAT CORNER—


I TOLD HIM THERE ARE OTHER VACANT ROOMS BUT HE INSISTED SAYING IT'S CHEAPER
Y—
YES
T-THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM RIGHT?
HE'S CALLED KANEKO
I THINK IT'S STILL BETTER TO FIND SOMEONE BETTER QUALIFIED FOR THIS.
They might not have psychic powers, but still...
As a matter of fact, it's right behind the train station
WELL
HUH?
EH?
HE SAYS THAT HE'S SO BUSY THAT HE SELDOM COMES HOME BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
THE TENANT
HUH?
"It's all up to you,"
he said.
SO WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT IN HIS ROOM.
HE'S USUALLY AT WORK NOW

HAUNTED MANSION
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
INVESTIGATION
T-that means,
in other words
MOTHER!
PLEASE COME IMMEDIATELY!
PLEASE COME!
And bring Hana (the dog) along!!
That's impossible. It's too far!
Do your best okay?
he had to go through this every day
how thoughtless of me
Telling him it'll be alright
I'm sorry
Tsuchiya

TSUCHIYA?!
OH—
AH!
LONG TIME NO SEE
IT S KANEKO NOW
AS I SAID
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT
MR KANEKO THIS IS THE PSYCHIC I TOLD YOU ABOUT
Did he change his name?
OH. I SEE

WHOOSH
Tsuchiya
I—
I'LL STAY HERE
AND WAIT

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
H-HEY
YIKES!
TSU—
KANEKO
REALLY NOT GOOD...
THIS IS
HEY!
LET IT BE?!
I KNOW
JUST LET IT BE IT'LL BE FINE

BOOM
YOU RE SWEATING A LOT
ARE YOU SCARED?
IT S SCARY
AREN T YOU A SMASHING SUCCESS
IN MAGAZINES AND ON TV?
click click

UMM
DON'T BE MODEST.
SO THE STAR PSYCHIC
HAS THE TIME TO PRY INTO TRIVIAL STUFF LIKE THIS?
UMM, NO
I MEAN
YOU'VE BEEN
WATCHING WHAT I DO?
N-NOT INTENTIONALLY...
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS.
THAT'S—
PANIC

PARA
Y-YOU RE—
WH—
WHY
ARE YOU STAYING HERE?
IT'S CLOSE TO THE TRAIN STATION AND IT'S CHEAP
WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT THAT?
SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT
THERE WILL BE A LOT OF
PEOPLE IN BLACK WHO COME
AND HANG AROUND THE WINDOW

IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE THEM TOO
YEAH. IF ONLY I COULD SEE THEM TOO.
IF ONLY
But
I can see them now
LISTEN.
DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE?
This guy's not the Tsuchiya I knew.

THAT I CAN SEE THEM, TOO?
OH
WELL. I WONDERED.
WHY?
IF I CAN SEE THEM, TOO,
THEN I CAN AT LEAST CHASE THEM AWAY OR SOMETHING.
THANKS.
WHAT'S WITH
THAT ATTITUDE?

I REALLY WANTED TO HELP EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE
FOR YOUR SAKE!
HONESTLY WORRIED!
I WAS
I—
WAS SERIOUS!
AM I JUST A FOOL?!
IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YOU WERE
IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

WHO...
THE ONE...
...

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
TSU—

SFX: WHOOSH
AH!
THIS—
WHAAAAAAAAA

RESTRANT
24
時間
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
SINCE I HAD THIS FEELING
IT'S PATHETIC.

sprinkle
sprinkle
HEY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT
HEY, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
SORRY.
ABOUT WHAT?
EVERY-THING
LIKE HOW YOU GOT OVER THE FEAR
OR SOME-THING
YOU WERE SO AFRAID

WHEN THERE ARE SCARIER THINGS AROUND
IT'S POSSIBLE
I DIDN'T GET OVER IT PER SE
IT JUST SLIPPED MY MIND
YOU FORGOT?
IS THAT POSSIBLE? YOU CAN STILL SEE THEM AFTER ALL

That was all that I heard from mother
"IT SEEMS LIKE TSUCHIYA AND HIS FAMILY SUDDENLY MOVED AWAY."
MOONLIGHT FLITS.
BANKRUPTCY.
DIVORCE
REPAYING DEBTS.
DEBTS
DEBT COLLECTORS.
AFTERWARD I STUDIED LIKE HELL
I HAD TO KEEP BEGGING
NO ONE WOULD HIRE ME SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
I WAS GIVEN A SMALL LINE TO WORK WITH AFTER FIVE YEARS
IN MY TENTH YEAR I FINALLY BECAME A FOREMAN
BUT THERE'S STILL MY MOTHER'S MEDICAL BILLS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN PAID OFF YET

COMPARED TO THAT WHAT'S A BIT OF TERROR?
IN ANY CASE THE SITUATION BECAME BETTER
NOW
WHAT I'M AFRAID OF
IS LOSING MY SOCIAL CREDIBILITY
I SEE
WHY?
WHY WHAT?
THEN,
IF SO

NAH...
WHAT?
HAHA!
Pfft
WHY
HAS THAT FEAR RETURNED?
YEAH
BECAUSE THERE WAS A BREACH
IN MY HEART
YOU'RE THE ONE TO ASK
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED JUST THEN
IT SHOWS UP ONLY WHEN YOUR HEART HAS ROOM FOR IT
FEAR IS NOTHING MORE THAN THAT
I WAS LIVID

I REALLY DIDN'T THINK THAT YOU WOULD STILL REMEMBER
IT WAS STUPID WASN'T IT?
NO
IT'S JUST HUMAN NATURE

AS IF I COULD FORGET IT
I'M JUST GOING TO SAY.
BOY WAS I PISSED
THAT YOU THOUGHT I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.
!
LIKE, WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY WHO SPREADS IT AROUND WITHOUT A CARE?
I'M SORRY FOR HAVING SPREAD MY POWER TO YOU
I HAVE NEVER REGRETTED IT.
IT WASN'T JUST A RECKLESS WHIM
WAIT!
I APOLOGIZE
DO YOU REMEMBER? NO MATTER HOW MANY PART-TIME JOBS I TRIED I ALWAYS GOT FIRED IMMEDIATELY
DON'T APOLOGIZE!
THANKS TO YOU I CAN MAKE A LIVING
I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING WELL. STUDYING OR WORKING

RIGHT
YOU SHOULD COME TO MY PLACE
?!
YOU CAN'T GO BACK HOME IN YOUR CURRENT STATE ANYWAY RIGHT?
BESIDES, IF THAT ROOM S UNOCCUPIED THE LANDLADY S PROBLEM WILL BE FIXED TOO
GRAB
WELL IT'S SCARY
BUT AT LEAST I CAN CHASE THEM AWAY
FOR NOW

I MEAN WHAT I SAID
I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT AND I NEVER REGRETTED IT.
HMM?
...
ABOUT WHAT I SAID JUST NOW.
WELL.
NOT NOW. I'M TOO EXCITED
THINK BEFORE INVITING PEOPLE LIKE ME TO YOUR HOME.

SO

WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT

END